

KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 16, 2004

Unapproved DRAFT Meeting Notes

Members in Attendance

Carolyn Armanini
William Beck
Bob Beckwith
Don Freas
Steve Goldstein
Jerry Hardebeck
Mark Hooper
Ray Schlien
Shirley Shimada
Joe Tessier

Others in Attendance

Mark Buscher
Theresa Jennings
Kevin Kiernan
Tami Litras
Diane Yates
Nels Johnson

Action Items

Lines 8-9: Motion approving February 2004 minutes passed unanimously
Line 10: Agenda addition
Lines 81-82: Decision to cancel retreat planned for May and to have a regular meeting
Lines 85-90: Suggested agenda items for the May meeting
Lines 107-108: Cedar Groves Compost selected for annual July tour

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Hooper called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions

SWAC members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes and Review of Agenda

SWAC member Shirley Shimada moved approval of the March 2004 minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda addition: Mark Buscher – update on the Waste to Energy presentation to cities.

Subcommittee Reports

Facilities and Operations Subcommittee

No report, April meeting was cancelled.

17 **WRR Subcommittee**

18 *Brownfields and Contaminated Site remediation Program:*

19 Lucy Auster, Division staff, gave a presentation on the King County/City of Seattle Brownfields
20 program. The purpose of the program is to provide technical and financial assistance to
21 qualified private individuals and businesses, non-profit organizations and municipalities within
22 King County to assess and clean up contaminated brownfield sites. The U.S. Environmental
23 Protection Agency (EPA) defines a brownfield site as “real property, the expansion,
24 redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a
25 hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.” Brownfields do not include sites that have been
26 listed by EPA as Superfund sites. Except for Auster’s staff time, the program is completely
27 funded by U.S. EPA. The program has three components: technical assistance, grants and
28 loans.

29 Technical Assistance - Environmental Extension Service (EES) is provided by the non-profit
30 Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) via County contract. Assistance includes
31 research into past and present uses of sites; site visits to determine the likely extent of
32 contamination; review of existing environmental studies; help in navigating the regulatory and
33 technical requirements for the assessment/cleanup process; and help developing potential
34 cleanup options.

35 Grants – EPA provides municipalities with funding for brownfields’ assessment and cleanup
36 options.

37 Loans – The Brownfields’ Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) provides below market-
38 interest rates to eligible groups to finance site cleanup.

39 Success Stories – The EES contacted 1,662 businesses between 1999 – 2003; assessing over
40 253 acres. Two striking successes of the program are: North Coast site and Rainier Court.
41 For additional information about the brownfields program, contact Lucy Auster by phone at
42 206-296-8476 or by e-mail at lucy.auster@metrokc.gov.

43
44 *Factoria Household Hazardous Waste Facility:*

45 Jim Neely, Division staff, provided a briefing on the status of the household hazardous waste
46 (HHW) facility at Factoria Transfer Station. Since 1989, the Wastemobile has provided King
47 County households (excluding Seattle) with free HHW collection options.

48 In June 2000, a service-level study funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
49 of King County (LHWMP) recommended establishing a pilot fixed facility on the Eastside in
50 order to provide better collection options. The Factoria Transfer Station site was selected for

the pilot. The capital budget for the facility was a very modest \$102,000, while the majority of such facilities are over \$500,000. However, the project planning team developed a design for the facility that met the budget constraints through cost-saving features such as portable, prepackaged buildings, portable eye-washes, and a dry sump for the unloading area. In 2003, 12,267 customers were served, bringing 463 tons of HHW. Ninety-nine percent of customers rated service as either Excellent (84%) or Good (15%). Eighty-eight percent rated driving distance to the facility as either Excellent (53%) or Good (35%). The cost per ton and per vehicle in 2003 was lower for Factoria than for the Wastemobile, and King County received a 2003 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for the Factoria facility. The Factoria project planning team has recommended to LHWMP that the Factoria site be made permanent, and that another fixed facility be considered in South King County in the 2006 budget process.

Waste to Energy Presentation to Cities:

Mark Buscher, Lead Planner, briefed SWAC on a presentation he attended by Waste Recovery Seattle, Inc. (WRSI) to the Suburban Cities Association. Waste Recovery Seattle, Inc., a small company with a staff of two - Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, President and Douglas Gilmore, Associate - presented its proposal for burning municipal (urban) solid waste (MSW) to generate power. Buscher distributed hard copies of the company's PowerPoint presentation "Waste-to-Energy (WTE) vs. Rail-to-Landfill." Although this method of disposal works in Europe, WRSI is unfamiliar with solid waste handling practices in this region. Buscher provided the company with copies of the adopted Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, the Division's Business Plan, and the latest regional Waste Characterization Study.

Buscher told WRSI that they could choose to submit a detailed proposal/business plan on how their technology would work in this region when the Solid Waste Management Plan is next updated in 2005. He also suggested that WRSI talk to local energy and solid waste management companies.

SWAC Retreat – Discussion of retreat purpose and agenda:

After discussing agenda items for a retreat, **SWAC unanimously decided not to have a retreat in May**. There will be a regular SWAC meeting on May 21, 2004. Shirley Shimada requested the 8th floor conference room be reserved.

Suggested agenda items for the May meeting include:

- 1) Conflict of Interest,**
- 2) SWAC structure.**

Steve Goldstein said he participated in the public process for the public art at 1st Northeast and is concerned about the design. He requested that a presentation on the proposed art be added to SWAC's May meeting agenda. Members agreed. Staff will contact the Cultural Development Authority to schedule.

Kiernan commented that the artist has presented her ideas to the Solid Waste Division Management Team (SWDMT). SWDMT was happy with her concepts.

SWAC member Bill Beck said that his wife loves to go to the Enumclaw Transfer Station with him just to see the art.

SWAC Tours – Discussion of possible tour sites:

Choices for SWAC's annual field trip on July 16, 2004:

- 1) Rabanco Intermodal
- 2) Northwest Container Hauling
- 3) Cedar Groves Compost facility
- 4) Waste Management's Woodinville recycling facility
- 5) Household Hazardous Waste Locker at the Factoria Transfer Station
- 6) Brownfield site

Members expressed interest in several of the tour possibilities but decided to tour Cedar Groves since the company has implemented new technology. Jerry Hardebeck said members could tour Waste Management's new recycling facility at anytime.

SWD Changes Update

Theresa Jennings told SWAC that on March 26th, there was informational picketing at transfer stations by UPS truck drivers represented by Teamsters Local 174. Negotiations with Local 174 took place on March 26th and, on the morning of March 27th, the parties reached agreement. The agreement was ratified by the members on April 4th. On March 29th, Local 174's new work schedules went into effect.

On March 31st, Rabanco filed a lawsuit against the Solid Waste Division on three issues:

- 1) legality of the rent;
- 2) regional direct rate increase;
- 3) flow control in unincorporated areas.

The rent issue questions whether King County has a right to charge the Solid Waste Division rent for the use of the Cedar Hills Landfill. The flow control issue centers on the state law concerning consolidated G certificates that cross county lines.

On April 1, Judge Doerty placed a 60 day temporary restraining order on the regional direct rate increase. In a subsequent hearing, Judge Doerty reduced the restraining order to 30 days.

On May 4th, there will be another hearing to determine if the restraining order will stay in place.

SWAC member Joe Tessier asked if the transfer station scheduled hours changes would be implemented.

Jennings responded that the 2nd shift is operating at the Bow Lake Transfer Station. Hours' changes at urban facilities that were scheduled to go into effect on June 1st won't be implemented until June 14th. The hours' changes at the Enumclaw and Vashon transfer stations did take place on April 1st.

Tessier asked what the impact to the Division will be if the restraining order stays in place until the trial.

Jennings responded that this is what the business plan envisioned - that the haulers would continue to use the Cedar Hills Landfill.

The Division is working with the cities on a number of issues, including the waste export plan and a strategy to address the Eastside Transfer Stations (Houghton and Factoria). Several cities have also expressed interest in renegotiating their ILAs.

Transfer Station Updates – 1st NE and Bow Lake

Engineering Services Manager Kevin Kiernan gave an update on the 1st NE Transfer Station Improvement Project. A community meeting is scheduled for May 11th to present the design for the station, which is at 30 percent completion.

153 Planning has started on the Bow Lake Transfer Station Facility Master Plan. Public notice has
154 been sent out and the Division is soliciting input. There will be a different public process for
155 Bow Lake since it is not in a residential neighborhood.

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157 Employee Morale

158 Jennings stated that employee morale seems improved over the past few weeks.

159

160 Adjournment

161 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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163 Submitted by:

164 Tami Litras, Solid Waste Division staff